

# *Cundy's Harbor Library*

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2005 was a year of change for Cundy's Harbor Library. Under the leadership of former president Linda Prybylo, the Library initiated plans for an addition to accommodate a growing collection and usage, and to provide – for the first time – a bathroom. When Linda left for Minnesota last summer, the Board was fortunate to have Sue Hawkes take over as president. Library director Dallas van Koll left for Texas in November after a successful two and a half years. The Trustees are grateful for the contributions made by these people. After a search for a new library director, Pam Kenney took over, bringing new enthusiasm and skills to the Library.

Last year's events included a community read, the children's summer reading program, and a successful book sale. The Library participated in the annual Cundy's Harbor Day with a readers recognition ceremony, and hosted the ice cream social, and the first Annual Blessing of the Fleet at the Library Park.

This March the Community Read choice is Trevor Corson's "The Secret Life of Lobsters," sure to be of interest in Harpswell. Young readers are invited to read and discuss "The Young Man and the Sea" by Rodman Philbrick, and the youngest readers may read "Lobsterman" by Dahlov Ipcar. All three books are available at the Library. Times and dates will be announced later on the website (<http://www.cundysharbor.lib.me.us>), or call 725-1461 during library hours.

New Library hours are:       Tuesdays 1-6 pm  
  Thursdays 3-5 pm  
  Saturdays 9-2 pm

Building plans proceed under the oversight of trustee Harry Rich and are now in the permitting stage. Under the rallying cry "All things are possible" we hope to complete the addition by 2007.

The Library houses a special section on Harpswell and Maine. Parent-Teachers Association minutes from the library archives have been turned over to the Harpswell Historical Society as part of the Town's school history.

The Trustees want to thank the Town for their support and look forward to serving the community in the future.

Sue Hawkes, President	Harry Rich, Vice President
Ann Greene, Trustee	Anne Perry, Secretary
Pam Bichrest, Treasurer	Denise Deshaies, Trustee
Jody Watson, Trustee	

# *Orr's Island Public Library*

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The Orr's Island Public Library has had another busy year with our usual offering of services, including reading material, books on tape and CDs, computer/ Internet service, and a video collection. The year was a special one, as we marked our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Our Library encourages the use of the Library facility by community organizations for meetings. We continue to offer monthly workshops for computer use, with Tom Colkitt providing assistance, both to the library and to individual users.

Our volunteers, the community and our generous patrons and supporters all participated, resulting in a successful summer Book Sale and Fair.

Our Librarian, Joanne Rogers, reports that we have served over 4000 patrons, who checked out books, audios, videos and children's books. Joanne is assisted by Vivian Addison and a number of volunteers, who enable us to provide the current level of services to the community in a cost effective manner.

Our Summer Program includes providing our youth with programs presented by the Chewonki Foundation. These presentations involved hands on participation, especially enjoyed by our youthful participants.

The financial support provided by the Town of Harpswell and the community-at-large are sincerely appreciated. The Town's support of these services provides its citizens with an important educational and recreational resource for all age groups. This assists us in reaching our goal to increase our services, thereby ensuring that we meet the needs of the community and are accessible to the maximum number of patrons.

# *Curtis Memorial Library*

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## **An Open Letter to the Citizens of Harpswell February 2006**

For thirty years the Town of Harpswell has provided its residents with full access to the Curtis Memorial Library by paying a share of the library's annual operating budget. By doing so, the Town has guaranteed all Harpswell residents the same right to be cardholders and full users of the library services as Brunswick residents. The number of Harpswell cardholders has grown to be a significant portion of the Town's population. The arrangement works well, and the library's staff and Board of Directors are pleased with Curtis Memorial Library's important and expanding role in the Harpswell community, as evidenced by participation in the Harpswell Library Committee and outreach programs.

Curtis Memorial Library is not a department of the Town of Brunswick, although Brunswick taxpayers built and maintain the library building. The library is operated by a library board and draws most of its basic operating budget of \$1,071,138 for fiscal year 05/06 from municipal funds with \$95,918 coming from Harpswell and \$921,850 coming from Brunswick. The public support from Brunswick amounts to \$43.04 per capita, and from Harpswell it is \$18.30.

The Harpswell appropriation equates to considerably less than the actual use by residents. Presently, Harpswell provides 9.4% of the municipal funding for operations, while accounting for 13.6% of the cardholders, and 12.5% of the borrowing activity. It is also important to remember that the capital investment in the new facility has been borne totally by the taxpayers of Brunswick (\$4.0 million) and by private donors (\$2.2 million). Brunswick pays for debt service and insurance costs of \$409,882.

Harpswell residents are represented on the library's Board of Directors and on the Board of the Friends of the Library. We are happy to have signed a memorandum of understanding with the Selectmen formalizing Harpswell's involvement in the the library, and expanding the library's role in providing services to the citizens of Harpswell.

The library greatly values the support from the Town of Harpswell. We also believe that the library offers, at a very cost-effective price, a superior product to Harpswell through its wide range of services and fine staff. The Harpswell appropriation remains absolutely vital to the maintenance of high quality library service. We are submitting a request for \$101,776. This amount is equal to 10% of the library's total municipal support for last year, and is the final step in the library's request that Harpswell reach 10% of the total municipal funding.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Brian Damien, Acting Director  
Curtis Memorial Library